PROVIDING FOR CREATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO BE KNOWN AS FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICTS.

C. S. S. B. No. 19.]

CHAPTER 48.

An Act to provide for the creation of conservation districts within this State under and by virtue of the provisions of Section 59 of Article 16 of the State Constitution to be known as Fresh Water Supply Districts for the purpose of conserving, transporting and distributing Fresh Water from lakes, pools, wells, reservoirs, springs, creeks and rivers for domestic and commercial purposes; prescribing how such districts may be created; defining their rights, powers and privileges and the manner of their exercise; constituting such district when created governmental agencies and bodies politic and corporate, and fixing their rights and liabilities as such; providing for the construction, maintenance and protection of works and improvements by them; granting to such districts the right of cminent domain with certain exceptions, and the power to levy taxes and to cause the same to be assessed and collected, and to issue bonds and create indebtedness to raise funds for the objects of their creation, making renal interference with or injury to their works and improvements and fixing penalties and punishment to be imposed upon persons offending, and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. There may be created within this state conservation districts to be known as Fresh Water Supply Districts, for the purpose of conserving, transporting and distributing Fresh Water from lakes, pools, reservoirs, wells, springs, creeks, and rivers for domestic and commercial purposes, as contemplated by Section 59, Article 16 of the Constitution of this State, which said districts shall have and may exercise all the rights, privileges and powers given by this Act and in accordance with its directions, limitations and provisions. Such districts may or may not include cities and towns.

Sec. 2. When is is proposed to create a Fresh Water Supply District, there shall be presented to the Commissioners' Court in which the lands to be included in such district are located, or to the County Judge of the County, if the Commissioners' Court is not in session, a petition signed by fifty or by a majority of the qualified voters of such proposed district who shall own land within the District proposes, setting forth the proposed boundaries thereof, the general nature of the work proposed to be done, the necessity therefor, and the feasibility thereof and designating a name therefor, which shall include the nake of the county in which it is situated and upon presentation of such petition it shall be the duty of the Commissioners' Court or the County Judge of such county if the court be not in session to forthwith fix a time and place at which said petition shall be heard before the Commissioners' Court of the County herein it is filed, which date shall be not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the order, and to order and direct the County Clerk of such County, as ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners' Court thereof, to issue notice of such time and place of hearing, which notice shall inform all persons concerned of the time and place of hearing and their right to appear and contest the genuineness of such petition and the signature thereto and whether said petitioners are qualified voters of such proposed district, and owners of land therein and to deliver such notice to any adult who is willing to execute the same

by posting as herein directed.

SEC. 3. Upon receipt of the notice above provided for by any adult person willing to receive and execute the same it shall be the duty of such person, or persons if more than one shall act, to post a copy of such notice at the door of the Court House of said County, and a copy at four different places within such proposed district. Such posting shall be for not less than ten days prior to the date fixed for the hearing and the person or persons so posting shall make affidavit, before some officer authorized by law to administer oaths of his or their action in respect to such posting, and such affidavit when so made shall be conclusive of the facts sworn to.

Sec. 4. A petition for the formation of such a district shall be accompanied by a deposit of One Hundred Dollars, which deposit shall be paid to the clerk of the County Court, who shall therefrom upon vouchers approved by the County Judge, pay all expenses incident to the hearing and the election for the creation of the District herein provided for, returning any excess to the petitioners or their attorney.

SEC. 5. At the time and place set for the hearing of the petition or such subsequent date as may then be fixed the court shall proceed to examine such petition for the purpose of ascertaining the sufficiency thereof, and any person interested may appear before the court in person or by attorney and offer testimony touching the sufficiency of such petition. Such court shall have jurisdiction to determine all issues raised touching the sufficiency of such petition. Such hearing may be adjourned from day to day and from time to time as the facts may require. The court shall have power to make all incidental orders necessary in respect to the matters before it.

SEC. 6. If upon the hearing of such petition it be found that the same is signed by the requisite number of qualified voters of such proposed district, who own land therein and that such petition conforms to the provisions of Section 2 of this act, then the court shall so find in favor of the petitioners for the establishment of a district according to the boundaries as set forth in said petition and the County Commissioners' Court hearing said petition shall order an election to be held within said proposed Fresh Water Supply District at a time not less than twenty nor more than thirty days from the date of such order. At which election there shall be submitted the following propositions:

'For the Fresh Water Supply District," "Against the Fresh Water Supply District," and the election of five supervisors and an assessor

and collector as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 7. After the ordering of an election as provided in the preceding section, notice of such election shall be given stating the time and place or places of holding the election and showing the boundaries of said proposed district, and such notice shall also show the presiding officer or officers appointed for the holding of said election. Such notice shall be posted at the Court House door of the County in which said proposed district is situated, and shall be posted for twenty days previous to the daye of the election and shall contain the proposition to be voted upon and names of officers to be filled at such election.

SEC. 8. The manner of conducting such election shall be governed by the election laws of the State of Texas, except as herein provided, and at such election none but resident property tax payers who are qualified voters of such proposed dietrict shall be entitled to vote on any question submitted to the voters thereof at such election. The County Commissioners' Court shall name a polling place or polling places for such election. Each and every Fresh Water Supply District is hereby constituted an election precinct for the purposes of the election above specified, and all other elections which may be ordered or held under any provisions of this Act. The Commissioners' Court ordering said election shall select and appoint two judges, one of whom shall be presiding judge, and two clerks at each polling place name, and shall provide the necessary ballots for such election. Said ballot shall have printed thereon the following: "For the Fresh Water Supply District," "Against the Fresh Water Supply District," and the names of the persons recommended for supervisors and officers in the petition presented to the Commissioners' Court. Said ballot shall also have five blank places after the name of those printed on which each voter may write the names of other persons supervisors and assessor and collector, and there shall be no other matter placed on said ballot.

SEC. 9. Every person who offers to vote in any election held under the provisions of this Act shall take the following oath before the presiding judge of the polling place where he offers to vote and for such purpose the presiding judge is hereby authorized to administer the same:

SEC. 10. Immediately after the election the presiding Judge at each polling place shall make returns of the result in the same manner as provided for in general elections for State and County officers, and the Commissioners' Court shall forthwith at a regular Session, if said court be in regular session, or a special session called for that purpose if said Commissioners' Court be not in regular session, canvass such vote and if it be found that the votes of a majority of the resident property tax payers voting thereon shall have been east in favor of the Fresh Water Supply District, then the court shall declare the result of said election in favor of the establishment of said district, and shall enter the same in the minutes of said court, and shall also canvass the vote for supervisors and assessor and collector and issue or cause to be issued to the five supervisors receiving the highest number of votes certificates of their election and to the person receiving the highest number of votes for assessor and collector a certificate of his election as provided under the general election law. Provided, however, that should it be found that two or more persons had received the same number of votes for the position of fifth supervisor the said Commissioners' Court shall select one of said persons to fill said position.

SEC. 11. If the Commissioners' Court shall declare the result of

said election to be in favor of the establishment of the Fresh Water Supply District, then said court shall cause to be made and entered in the minutes of said court an order setting forth substantially as follows: "In the matter of the petition of...... and.....others praying for the establishment of a Fresh Water Supply District as in said petition described and designated, as......County Fresh Water Supply District No.; be it known that an election was called for that purpose in said district and held on the.......day of...... Month, A. D. 19... and a majority of the resident tax payers voting thereat voted in favor of the creation of the said Fresh Water Supply District. Now, therefore, it is ordered by the Court that a Fresh Water Supply District be and the same is hereby established under the name of..................County Fresh Water Supply District No...... with the following metes and bounds. "(Which field notes shall be copied in the record). The first district created under this Act in any county shall assume the number "ONE", the second district created shall assume the number "TWO", and so on consecutively.

SEC. 12. After the making and entering by the Commissioners Court of the order establishing a Fresh Water Supply District as herein provided, the court shall cause to be made a certified copy of such order, which shall be filed with the County Clerk of the county in which such district is situated, and the same shall be duly recorded in the deed records of said County, and such recordation shall have the same effect in so far as notice is concerned, as is provided for the record of deeds and all costs in connection with the making and recording of such copy shall be paid by the District.

SEC. 13. Within ten days after the making and entry of the order of the Commissioners' Court declaring the result of the election and the establishment of the Fresh Water Supply District as herein provided, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the supervisors elected at such election shall give and enter into a good and sufficient bond in the sum of \$5000.00 each payable to the Fresh Water Supply Distriet, conditioned upon the faithful performance of their duties to be approved by the Commissioners' Court provided, however, that after the organization of such district all bonds required to be given by any supervisor, officer or employee of such supply district shall be approved by the supervisors of such districts instead of the Commissioners' Court. The supervisors shall take the oath of office prescribed by the Statute for Commissioners' Court execut that the name of the Supply District shall be substituted for the name of the county in said oath of office, and the bond and oath herein provided for shall be filed with the County Clerk of the County wherein the order was entered creating said district, and by him recorded in the official bond records of said County, and after it is recorded said bond shall be delivered by the County Clerk to the depository selected by such district under the provisions of this Act, and shall be by it safely kept as part of the records of said district.

Sec. 14. The supervisors of such Fresh Water Supply District

shall organize by electing one of their number as President, and any three of whom shall constitute a quorum, and a concurrence of three shall be sufficient in all matters pertaining to the business of their district. They shall have power to appoint a sceretary who shall receive such compensation as the Board of Supervisors may fix, not to exceed One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars per month.

SEC. 15. No person shall be elected as supervisor for any Fresh Water Supply District created under this Act, unless he is a resident of said district and owns land subject to taxation within such district, and who at the time of such election shall be more than twenty-one years of age.

Sec. 16. The Board of Supervisors herein provided for shall have control over and management of all the affairs of such Fresh Water Supply District, shall make all contracts pertaining thereto and such supervisors shall have control of the construction of all improvements and works within and without the boundaries of such district and the transportation and distribution of the water of such district, and shall prescribe the manner and terms upon which water shall be furnished, and shall be authorized to fix the rate to be charged users of water from such supply district, and shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the distribution and use of water and the revenue from the sale of such water shall be applied to operating expenses and the upkeep of the system of improvements installed in said district, and any surplus that may be left after paying such expenses shall be from year to year applied to the payment of interest on the bonds or other indebtedness that may be incurred by the district, and if there be more than enough to pay operating and upkeep expenses, and the interest on the indebtedness of the district, then such surplus shall be passed by the supervisors to the sinking fund provided in this act, and the board of supervisors shall employ all necessary employees for the proper handling and operation of such district, and especially may employ a general manager, attorneys, a bookkeeper and an engineer and such assistants and laborers as may be required, and they may also buy all necessary implements, machinery, work animals, equipment and supplies, as may be required for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the system of works and improvement of such Fresh Water Supply District.

SEC. 17. All Fresh Water Supply Districts created as herein specified shall be governmental agencies and bodies politic and corporate with such powers of government, and with authority to exercise such rights, privileges and functions concerning the purposes for which they are created, as may be conferred by this act, or any other law in this State, to the benefit of which they may become entitled, and such districts are hereby declared to be defined districts within the meaning of Section 59, Article 16 of the Constitution and may by and through their supervisors, sue and be sued in any and all courts of this state in the name of such fresh water supply districts, and all courts of this state shall take judicial notice of the establishment of such districts, and said districts shall contract and be contracted with in the name of such districts. And all such Fresh Water Supply

Districts shall have full authority and right to acquire water rights and privileges in any way that any individual or corporation may acquire same, and to hold the same either by gift, purchase, device, appropriation or otherwise.

SEC. 18. Fresh Water Supply Districts created under this Act are entitled to the benefits of this provision, and subject to the limitations of this act contained, shall have full power and authority to build, construct, complete, carry out, maintain and in case of necessity add to and re-build all works and improvements within and without such districts necessary to accomplish any plan of conservation, transportation and distribution of fresh water adopted for or on behalf of such districts and may make all necessary and proper contracts, and employ all persons and means necessary to that end, and such districts are authorized, if the governing nodies thereof shall deem it necessary, to take over in whole or in part by purchase or otherwise, any water plants or systems within such districts; and in the accomplishment of such purposes they may or may not issue bonds, and may or may not incur indebtedness, provided that no bonds by or on behalf of such district shall be issued nor shall any indebtedness against the same be incurred unless the proposition to issue such bonds or to incur such indebtedness, shall be first submitted to the qualified property tax paying voters of such district, and the proposition adopted by a majority vote of the property tax paying voters of the district voting at an election held to determine such question, and no enumeration of specific powers in this Act shall be held a limitation upon the general powers hereby conferred except as may be distinctly expressed.

SEC. 19. The right of eminent domain is hereby expressly conferred on all Fresh Water Supply Districts established under the provisions of this act for the purpose of enabling such district to acquire the fee simple title, easement, or right-of-way over and through any and all lands, water, or lands under water, private or public (except lands and property used for parks, manufacturing industries and established and developed water powers existing at the time of the creation of such district, and cemetery purposes) within and without such districts necessary for making, constructing and maintaing all canals, conduits, acqueducts, pipe lines, pumping plants and other improvements necessary for the conservation, transportation and distribution of fresh water for the purpose herein named. In the event of the condemnation or taking, damaging or destroying of any property for such purposes, the Supply Districts shall pay to the owner thereof adequate compensation for the property taken, damaged or destroyed. All condemnation proceedings or suits in the exercise of eminent domain under this Act shall be instituted under the direction of the district supervisors, and in the name of the Fresh Water Supply District, and all suits or other proceedings for such purposes and for the assessing of damages, and all procedure with reference to condemnation, the assessment of and estimating of damages, payment, appeal, the entering upon the property pending the appeal, etc., shall he in conformity with the statutes of this state, for the condemning and acquiring of right of way by railroad company, and all such compensation and damages adjudicated in such condemnation proceedings and all damage which may be done to the property of any person or corporation in the construction and maintenance of canals, conduits, pipe lines, pumping plants and other improvements under the provisions of this Act shall be paid out of any funds or properties of the said Fresh Water Supply District, except taxes necessarily applied to the sinking fund and interest on the district bonds.

Sec. 20. The District Supervisors of any District are hereby empowered to acquire the necessary right of way for canals, conduits, pipe lines, pumping plants and other necessary improvements contemplated by this act, by gift, grant, purchase or condemnation proceedings as hereinbefore provided.

SEC. 21. The supervisors of any district, and the engineers and employees thereof are hereby authorized to go upon any lands lying within or without said district, for the purpose of examining the same with reference to the location of canals, conduits, pipe lines, pumping plants and all other kinds of improvements to be constructed for such district, and for any other lawful purpose connected with their plan of conservation, transportation and distribution of water, whether herein enumerated or not, and such necessary improvements may be constructed and maintained within and without such proposed districts upon lands acquired as herein authorized.

SEC. 22. The said Fresh Water Supply Districts are hereby authorized and empowered to make all necessary levees, bridges and other improvements across or under any railroad embankments, tracks, or rights of way, or public or private roads or the rights of way thereof, or rivers or other public improvements of other districts, or other such improvements and the rights of way thereof, for the purpose of enabling the Fresh Water Supply necessary for said distriet; provided, however, that notice shall first be given by said Fresh Water Supply District to the proper railroad authorities or other authorities or persons relative to the additions or changes to result from the improvements contemplated by the said Fresh Water Supply District; and the said railroad authorities or other authorities, or persons shall be given thirty (30) days in which to agree to said work to be done in the manner proposed by said District, or to refuse to agree thereto, in case of refusal, they shall at their own expense, construct the said improvements in their own manner; provided such design or manner of construction shall be satisfactory to said Fresh Water Supply District.

Sec. 23. Fresh Water Supply Districts are hereby given the right of way across all public or county roads, but they shall restore such roads where crossed to their previous condition for use, as near as may be.

SEC. 24. Fresh Water Supply Districts shall have authority to act jointly with each other with political subdivisions of the state, with other states, with cities and towns, and with the government of the United States, in performance of any of the things permitted by this

act; such joint acts to be done upon such terms as may be agreed upon by their supervisors.

SEC. 25. The office of assessor and collector herein provided for shall be filled by the same person, and before entering upon his duties as such assessor and collector he shall qualify by making and entering into a good and sufficient bond in the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties as assessor and collector and upon the paying over to the district depository of all sums of money coming into his hands as such collector; provided, however, that the supervisor shall require additional security in the event, in their judgment, the same may become necessary; and such assessor and collector shall be a resident of the district and a qualified voter in the district and shall receive such compensation for his services as may be provided by the board of supervisors, not to exceed \$2,400,00 per annum, which salary shall be paid by the district upon vouchers issued by the Board of Supervisors.

SEC. 26. After the establishment of any such Fresh Water Supply District, and the qualification of the Supervisors thereof, the Board of Supervisors may order an election to be held within such organized districts at a time not less than twenty nor more than thirty days from the date of said order, at which election, there shall be submitted this proposition and none other; "For the issuance of bonds and levy of taxes in payment thereof," "Against the issuance of bonds and levy of taxes in payment thereof."

Sec. 27. Notice of such election, stating the amount of bonds as determined by the Board of Supervisors to be necessary to be issued, shall be given by the Board of Supervisors, by posting a copy of said notice in four public places in said Fresh Water Supply District, one at the court house door of the county in which said District is situated; copies of which notice shall be posted for twenty days previous to the date of the election, and shall contain the proposition to be voted upon as set forth in the preceding section, together with an estimate of the probable cost of construction of the proposed improvement, and incidental expenses connected therewith, and an estimate of the cost of the purchase of the improvements already existing, if the same is contemplated, or the purchase of said necessary improvements, and the construction of additions thereto as the case may be. The manner of conducting such election shall be governed by the election laws of the State of Texas, except as hereinbefore otherwise provided. None but resident property tax payers who are qualified voters of such proposed district shall be entitled to vote on any question submitted to the voters thereof by the board of supervisors for said Fresh Water Supply District. The Board of Supervisors for such district shall name a poling place, or places, in such district and shall also select and appoint two judges, one of whom shall be presiding judge, and two clerks for each voting place designated by them and shall provide the necessary ballots for said election. Said ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words and none other: "For the issuance of bonds and levy of taxes in payment thereof."

"Against the issuance of bonds and levy of taxes in payment thereof." All expense incident to the calling and holding of such election or any other election authorized by this Act shall be paid out of any funds of said Fresh Water Supply District except interest and sinking fund provided for in this act upon vouchers drawn by the Board of Supervisors.

SEC. 28. Every person who offers to vote in any such election shall first take the oath hereinbefore set forth in section No. 9 of this Act before the presiding judge or any one of the judges of the polling place where he offers to vote, and the presiding judges are hereby authorized to administer said oath.

SEC. 29. Immeadiately after the election, the presiding judge of each polling place shall make return of the result in the same manner as provided for in general election for State and County officers, such return shall be made to the Board of Supervisors who shall at a regular or special session called for the purpose of canvassing said vote, canvass said vote and if it be found that the votes of a majority of the resident property tax paying voters voting therein shall have been east in favor of the issuance of the bands and levy of taxes, then said supervisors shall declare the result of said election to be in favor of the issuance of bonds and levy of taxes, then said supervisors shall declare the result of said election to be in favor of the issuance of bonds and levy taxes and in payment thereof and shall cause same to be entered in their minutes.

SEC. 30. After the canvass of the vote and declaring the result as provided for in the preceding section, the supervisors for said Fresh Water Supply District shall make and enter an order in their minutes directing the issuance of bonds for such district sufficient in amount to pay for such purposed improvements together with all necessary actual and incidental expenses connected therewith, and not to exceed the amount specified in said order and notice of election.

Sec. 31. The bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall be issued in the name of the Fresh Water Supply District, signed by the president of the board of supervisors and attested by the sceretary with the seal of said district affixed thereto and such bonds shall be issued in denominations of not less than one hundred (100 00) Dollars nor more than One thousand (1000.00) Dollars each, and such bonds shall bear interest at the rate of not to exceed six (6) per cent, payable annually or semi-annually. Such bonds shall by their terms provide the time, place or places, manner and conditions of their payment and the purpose for which they are issued and the interest thereon as may be determined and ordered by the board of supervisors for such Supply District and none of such bonds shall be made payable more forty years after the date thereof

SEC. 32. When bonds shall beve been issued by and on behalf of any Fresh Water Supply District, the supervisors of such district shall procure and deliver to the treasurer of the county in which such district is located, a well bound book in which a list shall be kept of all such bonds with their manner, amount, rate of interest, date of issuance, when due, where payable, amount received for same and

the tax levy to pay interest on and to provide a sinking fund for their payment which book shall at all times be opened to the inspection of the parties interested, either as tax payers or bondholders; and upon the payment of any bond, an entry thereof shall be made on such book. The County Treasurer shall receive for his services in recording all these matters the same fees as may be allowed by law to the County Clerk for recording deeds.

Sec. 33. Before any bonds issued by or on behalf of any Fresh Water Supply District are offered for sale there shall be forwarded to the Attorney General a certified copy of all proceedings had in the organization of the district and with reference to the issuance of such bonds in connection with the bonds themselves and such other information with respect thereto as may be required by the Attorney General shall be furnished; and it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to carefully examine said bonds in connectin with the record and Constitution and laws of this State governing the issuance of such bonds, and, if, as a result of his examination, the Attorney Goneral shall find that such bonds are issued in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the State and that they are valid a and binding obligations upon the district by or on behalf of which they are issued, he shall so officially certify, and until he shall fo officially certify, and intil registered by the Comptroller as hereinafter required, the said bonds shall be without validily.

SEC. 34. When the bonds of any Fresh Water Supply District have been examined and approved by the Attorney General and his certificate thereto has been issued, they shall be registered by the State Comptroller in a book kept for that purpose and the certificate of the Attorney General as to the validity of such bonds shall be preserved of record. Such bonds after receiving the certificate of the Attorney General, and after having been registered in the Comptrollers Office, as herein provided, shall be held, in every action suit or proceeding in which their validity may be brought into question, prima facio valid; and in every action brought to enforce collection of such bonds and interest thereon, the only available defense against the validity of such bonds shall be forgery or fraud.

SEC. 35. When bonds shall have been issued, approved and registered as provided in this Act, the board of supervisors shall sell said bonds on the best terms and for the best price possible. The supervisors selling said bonds shall promptly pay over to the depository of said district the proceeds of said bonds to be placed to the credit of such district; but none of said bonds shall be sold for less than face value thereof and accrued interest.

Sec. 36. Immediately after the voting of bonds in any Fresh Water Supply District as provided by this Act, the assessor and collector as hereinbefore provided, shall at once proceed to make an assessment of all of the taxable property, both real, personal and mixed in his district; and such assessment shall be made annually thereafter. Said assessment shall be made upon blanks to be provided by the supervisors for such district. Said assessment shall consist of a full statement of all property owned by the party rendering same in said dis-

triet and subject to taxation therein and shall state the full value thereof. There shall be attached to each such assessment an affidavit made by the owner or his agent rendering said property for taxation to the effect that said assessment or rendition contains a true and complete statement of all property owned by the party for whom said rendition is made in said district and subject to state and county taxation therein; and in addition to all such assessments or rendition made by the owner or agents of such property, the tax assessor shall make out similar lists of all poerty not rendered for taxation in such district that is subject to State and County taxation. Each and every person, partnership or corporation owning taxable property in such district shall render same for taxation to the assessor when called upon to do so, and if not called upon by the assessor, the owner shall on or before June first of each year, nevertheless, render for taxation all property owned by him in the district subject to taxation.

And all penal laws and penal statutes of this State providing for securing the rendition of property for state and county taxes, and providing penalties for the failure to render such properties shall apply to all persons, partnerships or corporations owning or holding property in any Fresh Water Supply District. The tax assessor shall have authority to administer oaths to fully carry out the provisions of this Section.

SEC. 37. When the bonds shall have been issued by any Fresh Water Supply District, the board of supervisors of such district shall levy and cause to be assessed and collected taxes upon all property, real and personal and mixed, within such district based upon the full value of each piece of property, which taxes shall be sufficient in amount to pay the interest on such bonds as it shall fall due, and to raise an additional fund which shall create a sinking fund sufficient to redeem and discharge such bonds at maturity; and such taxes shall thereafter be levied annually so long as such bonds, or any of them, are outstanding, sufficient in amount to accomplish the purposes indicated. Sinking funds shall from time to time be invested in such county, municipal, district or other bonds as other sinking funds may by law be invested in, or in bonds of the series to which such funds apply if offered for redemption before maturity upon terms deemed advantageous to the district by its Supervisors.

Sec. 38. If at any time it should be deemed necessary by the board of supervisors to vote a maintenance tax in such district, they shall call an election in such district, at which election shall be submitted the question "For a maintenance tax", "Against a maintenance tax"; the supervisors calling said election shall state the amount of said maintenance tax proposed to be voted and such election shall be called and held and the votes returned and canvassed in the same manner as provided for the issuance of bonds in this act. And when a maintenance tax shall have been voted as herein provided, the supervisors of said district shall thereafter levy and cause to be assessed and collected upon all property, real, personal and mixed of such district based upon the full valuation of same, to an amount not exceeding the specific sum voted, and the vote in such

cases may be for a specific sum, or not to exceed a specific sum. The proceeds of such taxes shall be used for the maintenance, upkeep, repairs and additions to the improvements, and the district, or other lawful expense incurred by and on behalf of such district and for no other purposes. The right to levy such taxes shall remain in force until abrogated in whole or in part by another election to be called and held in the same manner as the election for the voting of maintenance taxes; but elections upon the question of repeal or reduction of maintenance taxes shall not be held oftener than every five years; provided, however, that the supervisors of such district may, or may not, levy from time to time the maintenance tax voted if such taxes are not necessary.

SEC. 39. All taxes provided for herein including the maintenance and operating taxes shall be collected under the direction of the supervisor by the assessor and collector for such district. He shall keep a true account of all moneys collected and deposit the same as collected in the district depository, and shall file with the secretary of the board of supervisors a true statement of all money collected once a week. He shall use a duplicate receipt book and shall give a true receipt for each collections made, retaining in such book a true copy thereof which shall be preserved as a record of the district.

Sec. 40. The supervisors for each fresh water supply district created under the provisions of this act shall at their first meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable and annually thereafter, appoint three commisioners, each being a qualified voter and resident property owner of said district who shall be styled the "Board of Equalization" and at the same meeting the said Board of Supervisors shall fix the time for the meeting of such Board of Equalization for the first year; and said Board of Equalization shall convene at the time fixed by the Supervisors to receive all assessments, lists or books of the assessor for said District for examination, correction, equalization, appraisement and approval and at all meetings of said board, the secretary shall keep a permanent record of all proceedings of said board of equalization, and such commissioners shall each receive as compensation for such service not to exceed Five (5) Dollars per day.

Sec. 41. Before entering upon the duties as such Board of Equalization, each of the members thereof shall take and subscribe to the following oath:

and said oath shall be spread upon the minutes to be kept by the secretary of said board.

Sec. 42. The Board of equalization herein provided for shall cause the assessor to bring before them, at the time fixed for the convening of said board all the assessment lists or books of the assessor of said district for their examination, that they may see that each and every person has rendered his property at its full value; and said board

shall have power to send for persons and papers, to swear and qualify persons who testify, to ascertain the value of such property and if they are satisfied it is too high, they shall lower it to its proper value, and if too low, they shall raise the value of such property to the proper figure. Said board shall have power to correct any and all errors that may appear on the assessors list or books and shall have further authority to add any and all property to said list or inventories that may have been omitted therefrom.

SEC. 43. The Board of Equalization shall equalize as near as possible the value of all the property situated within said distrist having reference to the location of said property and the improvements thereon situated, and any person may file with said board at any time before the final action of said board a complaint as to the assessment of his, or any other persons, property, and said board shall bear said complaint and said complaint shall have the right to have witnesses examined to sustain said complaint as to the assessment of said property, or as to failure to render any property owned by any person, partnership or corporation, situated within said district, subject to taxation which has not been properly assessed.

SEC. 44. The assessor for such district, at the same time that he delivers to said board his lists and books shall also furnish to said board a certified list of the names of all persons who either refuse to swear to or to sign the oath or affirmation as required by this law, together with a list of the property of such person s situated within said district as made by him through other information, and said board shall examine the list and appraise the property so listed by the assessor.

SEC. 45. In all cases where the Board of Equalization shall find it their duty to raise the value of any property appearing on the lists or books of the assessor, they shall, after having fully examined such lists or books and corrected all errors appearing thereon adjourn to a day not less than ten nor more than fifteen days from the date of adjournment, such day to be fixed in the order of adjournment, and shall cause the secretary of the board to give written notice to the owner of such property, or to the person rendering same, of the time to which said board may have adjourned, and that such owner or person may at any time appear and show why the value of such property should not be raised, which notice may be served by depositing the same, properly addressed, and with necessary postage in any post office within the county.

SEC. 46. The Board of Equalization shall meet at the time specified in said order of adjournment, and shall hear all persons the value of whose property has been raised, and if said board is satisfied they have raised the value of such property too high, they shall lower the same to its proper value; and said Board of Equalization, after they have finally examined and equalized the value of all the property on the assessor's lists or books, or that they may have been placed thereon by said board of equalization shall approve said lists or books and return them, together with the lists of unrendered property to the assessor, that he may make up therefrom his general rolls as

required by this act; and when said general rolls are so made up, the board shall immediately re-convene to examine said rolls, and to approve the same if found correct, and the action of the board at the meeting last provided for in this article shall be final and shall not be subject to revision by said board or by any other tribunal thereafter.

SEC. 47. The members of the board of equalization and the secretary of said board, shall each receive such compensation for their services to be allowed by the supervisors of said district, as they may deem just and reasonable, not to exceed however the sum of Five (5) Dollars per day for the time actually engaged in the discharge of such duties.

SEC. 48. After the return to the assessor and collector of the assessment lists or books duly approved by the Board of Equalization, as hereinbefore provided for, the said assessor and collector shall make up the assessment of all taxable property situated in said district upon duplicate rolls, and after the approval of said rolls by the Board of Equalization, one of the same shall be delivered to the Supervisors of said Fresh Water Supply District, to be by them kept as a permanent record in their office, and all lists and books of said assessor shall be caused to be substantially bound and by him kept as a permanent record of his office and be delivered, together with all other records of his office, to his successor, upon his election and qualification or in case of a vacancy in such office to the supervisors of said Fresh Water Supply District.

SEC. 49. The assessor and collector shall collect all taxes due to said Fresh Water Supply District, and shall, at the expiration of each week, pay over to the depository selected by said district, all moneys by him collected, and shall report to the supervisors of such district on the fourth Saturday off every month all moneys so collected by him and paid over to the depository, as hereinbefore provided, and shall perform all such duties and in such manner and according to such rules and regulations as the board of supervisors may prescribe, and for the convenience of the persons, firms or corporations owing such tax, shall keep and maintain an office with the Board of Supervisors for such Fresh Water Supply District where all such taxes may be paid.

SEC. 50. The assessor and collector shall be charged by the Supervisor for such Fresh Water Supply District, upon a permanent finance ledger, to be kept for said purpose by said District, with the total assessment as shown by the assessment rolls; and proper credit shall be given to the assessor and collector for all sums of money paid over to the depoitory as shown by his monthly reports as hereinbefore provided for, and upon the final annual settlement, the said assessor and collector shall make up a full complete report of all taxes that have not been collected, which said report shall be audited by said board of supervisors and proper credits given therefor, and such annual settlements shall be made on the first Monday in May of each year.

Sec. 51. The assessor and collector for said district shall hold of-

fice for the term of two years, and until his successor has been elected and qualified; provided, that the assessor and collector first elected to said office shall hold office only until the next general election to be held in said district for the election of officers as provided by this act.

Sec. 52. The assessment provided for in this Act shall be made upon all property subject to taxation in said district on the first day of January of each year, and such assessment shall be completed and the lists and books ready to deliver on or before the first day of June of each year.

Sec. 53. The Board of Equalization after the first year, shall convene annually on the first Monday in June in each year to receive all of the assessment lists or books of the assessor of said district for examination, correction, equalization, appraisement and approval, and for the addition thereto of any property found to be unrendered in said district, and shall complete the examination and equalization of said lists and rolls by the second Monday in June of said year, and shall complete and deliver said rolls to the assessor and collector by the second Monday in July of said year and the said assessment rolls shall be completed by the assessor and approved by the Board of Equalization, and returned to said assessor and collector by the first Monday in September of each year after the first assessment as hereinbefore provided.

SEC. 54. All taxes provided for by this Act shall become due and payable on the first day of October of each year, and shall be paid or or before the 31st day of January thereafter.

Sec. 55. All lands or other property which have been returned delinquent or which may hereafter be returned delinquent shall be subject to the provisions of this act, and said taxes shall remain a lien upon said land, although the owner be unknown, or though it be listed in the name of a person not the actual owner, and though the ownership be changed; the land may be sold under the judgment of the Court for all taxes, interest, penalty and costs shown to be due by such assessment for any preceding year.

Sec. 56. It shall be the duty of the Supervisors for such Fresh Water Supply District to cause to be prepared by the tax colleteor, at the expense of such district, a list of all lands upon which the taxes remain unpaid on the 31st day of January of each year, and such list of lands shall be known as the delinquent tax roll, and such tax roll shall be delivered to the secretary of such district to be by him safely kept as a part of the record of his office. Such delinquent record shall carry a sufficient description to properly identify the land shown to be delinquent therein. Such description may be made by reference to lot or block number.

Sec. 58. Upon the completion of said delinquent tax record by any Fresh Water Supply District, it shall be the duty of the Supervisors thereof to cause the same to be published in some newspaper published in the county in which said district is situated for three consecutive weeks, but if no newspaper is published in the county, such list may be published in a newspaper outside of the county to be designated by such Supervisor, by a contract duly entered into, and a publisher's fee of not to exceed twenty-five cents for each tract of land so advertised; and said publication and any other publication in a newspaper provided for in this Act may be proven by the affidavit of the proprietor of the newspaper in which the publication was made, his foreman or principal clerk, annexed to a copy of the publication, specifying the time when and the paper in which the publication was made.

SEC. 59. Twenty days after the publication of such notice, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the supervisors for such Fresh Water Supply District shall employ an attorney to bring suit in the name of the Fresh Water Supply District in the District Court of said county for the purpose of collecting all taxes, interest, penalty and costs due upon said land. Said petition shall describe all lands upon which taxes and penalties shall remain unpaid and the total amount of taxes and penalties due thereon with interest computed thereon to the time fixed for the sale of said land at the rate of six per cent per annum, and shall pray for a judgment for said amount, and for the fixing, extablishing and foreclosing of the lien existing against said land; that said lands be sold to satisfy said judgment for all taxes, interest, penalty and costs, and for such other relief to which such district may be entitled under the law and facts.

Sec. 60. The proper persons shall be made parties defendants in all such suits, and shall be served with process and other proceedings due therein as provided by law for suits of like character in the district court of this State, and in case of foreclosure, order of sale shall issue to the lands sold thereunder as in other cases for foreclosures; but if the defendant or his attorneys at any time before the sale, file with the sheriff or other officer in whose hands any such order of sale shall be placed, a written request that the property described therein shall be divided and sold in less tracts than whole, together with a description of such subdivision, then such officer shall sell the lands in said subdivision as the defendant may request, provided same are reasonable, and in such case, shall sell only as many subdivisions as may be necessary to satisfy the judgment, interest, and penalties and cost, and after the payment of the taxes, interest and penalties and costs adjudged against it, the remainder of the purchase price, if any, shall be paid by the sheriff, or other officer executing said order of sale, to the defendant, or his attorney of record.

Sec. 61. In all cases in which lands may be sold for default, in the payment of taxes under the preceding section, it shall be lawful for the sheriff, or other officer, selling the same, or any of his successors in office, to make a deed or deeds to the purchaser, or to any other person to whom the purchaser may direct the deed to be made, and any such deed shall be held in any court of law or equity in this state to vest a good and perfect title in the purchaser thereof, sub-

ject to be impeached only for actual fraud.

Sec. 62. The attorney representing such district in all suits against delinquent tax payers that are provided for in this act shall receive for such service such compensation as may be allowed by the supervisors for such Fresh Water Supply District; provided, however, that in no event shall said fees exceed fifteen per cent of the amount of the taxes so collected. The sheriffs, district clerks, and other officers executing any writ or performing any service in the foreclosure of delinquent taxes on any land situated in such Fresh Water Supply District, shall receive the same fees for such service as is provided by statute as fees for like services performed in connection with the discharge of the duty of their respective offices.

SEC. 63. If any person shall fail or refuse to pay the taxes imposed upon him or his property by this act until after the 31st day of January next succeeding the return of the assessment roll for said Fresh Water Supply District, a penalty of ten per cent on the entire amount of such tax shall accrue, which penalty, when collected, shall be paid over to such District. And the collector of taxes shall by virtue of his tax roll seize and levy upon and sell so much personal property as shall be sufficient to make the amount of such taxes, together with the penalty above provided, interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, and all costs accruing thereon. If no personal property be found for seizure and sale as above provided, the collector shall make up and file with the Secretary of the District the delinquent tax list hereinbefore provided for, charging against same all taxes, penaltics and interest assessed against the owner thereof.

Sec. 64. Any delinquent tax payer whose lands have been returned delinquent, or any one having an interest therein, may redeem the same at any time before his lands are sold, under the provisions of this act, by paying to the collector the taxes due thereon, with interest at the rate of six per cent, and all costs and the penalty of ten per cent as provided for in this Act.

SEC. 65. The Supervisors of Fresh Water Supply Districts shall keep a true account of all their meetings and proceedings, and shall preserve all contracts, records of notices, duplicate vouchers, duplicate receipts, and all accounts and records of whatever kind, in a fire proof vault or safe, and same shall be the property of the district, and shall be delivered to their successors in office.

SEC. 66. The Supervisors of such Supply District shall select a depository for such district under the same provisions as now provided for the selection of the depositories for the counties within this State; and the duties of such depositories shall be the same as now prescribed by law for county depositories. In the selection of depositories, the Supervisors of such Supply District shall act in the same capacity and perform the same duties as are incumbent upon the county judge and members of the commissioners' court in the selection of the county depositories; and all laws now in force or herein-

after to be enacted for the government of county depositories, shall apply to and become a part of this Act.

Sec. 67. The Fresh Water Supply District depository shall make a report of all moneys received and of all moneys paid out at the end of each month and file such reports with such vouchers among the records of such district in its own vault, and shall furnish a true copy thereof to the district supervisors and shall when called upon, allow same to be inspected by any tax payer, or resident of such district; such record shall be preserved as the property of such district and shall be delivered to the successor of such depository.

SEC. 68. The supervisors of each Fresh Water Supply District shall have and maintain a regular office suitable for conducting the affairs of such district within such Supply District and such supervisors shall hold regular meetings at said office, on the first Monday in February, May, August and November of each year, at ten o'clock A. M., and shall hold such regular and special meetings as they may see fit, any tax payer or resident or interested party may attend any such meeting, but shall not participate in same without the consent of the supervisors and may present to said supervisors such matters as they desire in an orderly manner.

Sec. 69. All meetings of the supervisors shall be held at the regular office of the district. All vouchers issued for the payment of any funds of the district shall be signed by at least three supervisors and shall refer to the book and page of the minutes allowing such act. All vouchers shall be issued from a regular duplicate book, retaining a duplicate which shall be preserved. The supervisor shall have kept a complete book of accounts for such district, and shall on June 1st of each year select a competent auditor who shall examine the accounts, books and reports of the depository, the assessor and collector and supervisors, and make full report thereon, copy of which shall be filed with the depository, and a copy with the supervisors, and one with the county clerk of the county in which such district is situated. Such reports shall be filed by September 1st of each year, and such reports shall show in detail for what purposes the money from each fund has been expended.

SEC. 70. The officers and employees of any Fresh Water Supply District who may be required to give bond or security, may furnish bonds of surety companies to be approved by the District Supervisors, provided, however, that when such a surety company bond is furnished by any such officer or employee, the surety company furnishing the same shall file for record in the office of the county elerk in the county wherein such district was created, a duly executed power of attorney showing the authority of the person signing such bond for such company to sign same, and said power of attorney shall be duly executed by the officers of said company and have attached the company's seal; and such power of attorney shall remain on file in said office. All such official bonds shall be deposited with the district depository and be preserved by it as the property of said district.

Sec. 71. The supervisors for any district created under this act shall have authority to fill all vacancies in the office of assessor by ap-

pointment, and the person so appointed shall hold his office until the next regular election held under this act, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified.

SEC. 72. All vacancies in the office of supervisors shall be filled by the Board of Supervisors by appointment, and the supervisor so appointed shall hold office until the next regular election, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified; provided, however, that where the number of supervisors shall have been reduced by death or resignation, or other cause, to less than two, then such vacancies shall be filled by special election to be ordered by the remaining member of said board of supervisors, said election to be ordered and held after the giving of notice for the election of said officers as provided for the holding of general elections; and further provided that if said remaining member shall fail or refuse to order such election, or if there be no remaining member on said board, then said election shall be ordered by the county judge of the county within which such district is situated, upon a petition signed by five persons interested in the election of said supervisors, whether said interested persons be tax-payers or bond-holders and when so ordered, notice shall be given of said election, and such election held in the manner provided for the holding of general elections, and the supervisors elected at such election shall hold their office until the next general election, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. In the event that less than a quorum exists to approve the bonds of such elected supervisors, then such bonds shall be approved by the County Commissioners' Court of such county.

SEC. 73. The term of office of all officers elected for such district shall be for two years and until their successors are elected and qualified: provided, however, that all officers elected at the first election held under the provisions of this Act shall hold office only until the next regular election to be held in said district for the election of officers.

Sec. 74. There shall be held on the first Tuesday in January, 1921, and every two years thereafter, a general election, at which time there shall be elected five supervisors for such districts and one assessor and collector who shall be the elective officers for such districts.

SEC. 75. The Supervisors provided for by this Act shall each receive as compensation for their services a sum not to exceed Ten (\$10.00) Dollars for each and every day necessarily taken in the discharge of their duties as such supervisors, and said supervisors shall file with the secretary of such district a statement verified by their affidavit of the number of days actually taken by them in the service of said district, said statement to be filed on the last Saturday of each month, or as nearly thereafter as practicable, and before a warrant shall be issued for the payment of such service.

Sec. 76. For all service performed by any officer or individual under this act, the compensation for which is not expressly provided for, such officer or individual shall receive the same compensation as he would for like service if rendered as an officer for the county.

Clerks recording orders hereunder shall receive the same compensation as would a county clerk for recording deeds, and persons posting notices hereunder shall receive the same compensation as would a sheriff for posting notices as would by law be required by him for posting notices officially.

SEC. 77. Contracts for the making and construction of all improvements contemplated in this Act and all necessary work in connection with such improvement district, when the cost price exceeds \$10,000.00 shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder furnishing satisfactory evidence of possessing equipment and facilities essential to the proper performance of such contract; after giving notice by advertising the same in one or more newspapers in general circulation in the State of Texas, which notice shall be published once a week for ten (10) days, and also by posting a notice for at least ten (10) days at the courthouse door of the county within which the district lies.

Such contract shall be reduced to writing and signed by the contractors and supervisors, and a copy of same so executed shall be filed with the District Depository subject to the inspection of all parties interested.

SEC. 78. The person, firm or corporation or association to whom such contract is let shall give bond to the district in such amount as the board of supervisors may determine, not to exceed the contract price conditioned that he, they, or it will faithfully perform the obligations, agreements and covenants of such contract, and that in default thereof they will pay the said District all damages sustained by reason thereof; such bond shall be approved by the supervisors and shall be deposited with the depository of the district, a true copy thereof being retained in the office of the secretary of the board of supervisors.

Sec. 79. All work included in the contract shall be done in accordance with the specifications under the supervision of the supervisors and district engineer. As the work progresses the engineer of such district shall make report to the supervisors showing in detail whether the contract is being complied with, and when the work is completed, he shall make a detailed report of same to the supervisors showing whether or not the contract has been fully complied with according to its terms, and if not in what particular it has not been complied with.

SEC. 80. The supervisors shall during the progress of the work under any contract, inspect the same, and upon the completion of any work in accordance with the contract, they shall draw a warrant on the depository of the district for the unpaid amount of the contract price, in favor of the contractor, and if the Supervisors shall deem it advisable, they may enter into a contract to be paid in partial payments as the work progresses; but such partial payments shall not exceed in the aggregate, eighty per cent of the amount of work done, the said amount of work completed to be shown by certified report of the engineer of the district.

SEC. 81. Fresh Water Supply Districts created under this Act

shall have a common scal which shall be circular in form, with the name of the District within the circle and a star of five points in the center.

SEC. 82. After the establishment of any such Fresh Water Supply District, and after the qualification of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors for such district may appoint an engineer whose duty shall be to make maps and profile of the several canals, reservoirs, aqueducts, conduits, pipe lines, pumping plants and all other works in such district and connected therewith, and shall also show any part of said canals, reservoirs, aqueducts, conduits, pipe lines, pumping plants or other works extending beyond the limits of such district. And to do such other and further work connected with such district as may be directed by the Board of Supervisors. Such enginer to receive a salary not to exceed Thirty-six Hundred (\$3600.00) Dollars per year as may be fixed by the Board of Supervisors for such District; provided said engineer may adopt other maps, plats and surveys of the correctness of which he may be satisfied.

SEC. 83. There is hereby created what shall be termed the "interest and Sinking Fund" for such district, and all taxes collected under the provisions of this Act shall be credited to such fund, and shall never be paid out, except for the purpose of satisfying and discharging the interest on said bonds or for the cancellation and surrender of such bonds and to defray the expenses of assessing and collecting such tax and such funds shall be paid out upon orders of the supervisors for such district upon warrants drawn therefor, as hereinbefore provided, and at the time of such payment the depository for said district shall receive and cancel any interest coupons so paid or any bonds so satisfied or discharged, and when such interest coupon or bond shall be turned over to the Supervisors, the account of such depository shall be credited with the amount thereof, and such bond or interest coupon shall be cancelled and destroyed.

SEC. 84. There shall also be created a fund known as the "Maintenance and Operating Fund", and such fund shall consist of all moneys collected by assessment or otherwise for the maintenance and operation of the properties purchased or constructed or otherwise acquired by such district and out of this fund shall be paid the salaries of all officers other than the assessor and collector and of all employes of every kind whatsoever, and all expenses of operation of every kind, such debts to be paid upon a warrant executed as otherwise provided herein.

SEC. 85. No supervisor, engineer or any employee of any district created under this Act shall be interested directly or indirectly, either for themselves or as agents for anyone else, in any contract for the purchase of any material required, or for the construction of any work by said district, and if any such person shall directly or indirectly become interested in any such purchase or contract, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine in any sum not to exceed one thousand (\$1000.00) Dollars or by confinement in the county jail for not less than six

months nor more than one year, or by by both such fine and imprisonment, and shall be removed from office, and disqualified for further service.

SEC. 86. The Depository of each Fresh Water Supply District when designated as provided in this act, shall perform the services as treasurer of the district, and shall execute a bond as such treasurer as may be required by the supervisors.

SEC. 87. The Board of Supervisors are hereby authorized to pay all necessary costs and expenses necessarily incurred in the creation and organization of any Fresh Water Supply District, and reimburse any person, corporation, or association for money advanced for such purposes, such payment to be made for money obtained from the sale of bonds.

SEC. 88. Provided, however, this Act shall in no manner repeal or affect the several Acts of the Legislature, providing other or different methods of organization and operating, conservation districts; and provided further that nothing in this Act shall be construed as repealing or in any manner affecting any laws providing for the reclamation of the overflow and swamp lands of this state, and the duties and powers of the State Reclamation Engineer as heretofore provided by law.

SEC. 89. The fact that in many sections of the state there is a scarcity of fresh water for domestic and commercial purposes, and there are many projects for the development of the different sections of the state calculated to add materially to the development of the state commercially, and impeded for the lack of adequate fresh water supply for domestic and commercial purposes, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each House be suspended and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

[Note.—C. S. S. B. No. 19 passed the Senate on July 8, 1919 by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays; and passed the House of Representatives with amendments on July 19, 1919 by a vote of 101 yeas and 0 nays; the Senate concurred in the House amendments on July 19, 1919 by a vote of 26 yeas and 0 nays.]

Approved July 28, 1919. Became effective July 28, 1919.